

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region III **Chesapeake Bay Guidance Documents**
Available for Review and Comment **December 2, 2002 and December 16, 2002**

U.S. EPA Region III has developed: ***Draft Ambient Water Quality Criteria for Dissolved Oxygen, Water Clarity and Chlorophyll a for the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tidal Tributaries.*** This *Draft Criteria Guidance* is intended to assist the Bay states and the District of Columbia in adopting revised water quality standards to address nutrient and sediment pollution in the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal tributaries. EPA Region III has developed this *Draft Criteria Guidance* using a multi-stakeholder approach to better define the water quality conditions necessary to protect aquatic living resources. The development of this guidance is implementing the *Chesapeake 2000* agreement signed on June 28, 2000, by the governors of MD, PA and VA, the mayor of the DC, the chair of the Chesapeake Bay Commission and the administrator of the U.S. EPA. Subsequently, the governors of DE, NY and WV signed a Memorandum of Understanding committing to implement the Water Quality Protection and Restoration section of the agreement. The *Draft Criteria Guidance* is available on line at: <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeake/baycriteria.htm> or <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/baycriteria.htm> Comments should be e-mailed to Criteria@chesapeakebay.net by January 13, 2003.

EPA Region III is also making available for review and comment a draft ***Technical Support Document (TSD) for the Identification of Chesapeake Bay Designated Uses and Attainability.*** The draft *TSD* provides further information on the development and geographical extent of the designated uses to which the criteria may apply. The *TSD* also provides information pertaining to technological attainability based on four level of effort scenarios. The *TSD* is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/chesapeake/bayTSD.htm> or <http://www.chesapeakebay.net/bayTSD.htm> Comments should be e-mailed to TSD@chesapeakebay.net by January 26, 2003.

To receive a copy of either the *Draft Criteria Guidance* or the *TSD*, call 1-800 YOUR BAY. Copies are available for review at the following locations: U.S. EPA Region III Library, 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103; U.S. EPA Headquarters Library, EPA West Building, Constitution Avenue and 14th Street, NW, Room 3340, Washington, D.C.; and U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109, Annapolis, Maryland 21403.

Comments may be sent by e-mail to the respective addresses above or should be postmarked no later than January 13, 2003 for the *Criteria* document and January 26, 2003 for the *TSD*, and mailed to U.S. EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, 410 Severn Avenue, Suite 109, Annapolis, Maryland 21403, Att: *Draft Criteria Guidance* or *TSD*, respectively. EPA Region III intends to finalize these documents by April 30, 2003.